

- I noticed that there were a lot of questions about Belle Isle on the survey. I am opposed to a fee for Belle Isle. Even if it needs fixing up, there are other ways to finance it. We already pay high taxes in Detroit, no fee for Belle Isle.
- The Parks and Recreation Department is a disgrace and should be completely overhauled. It should not be used as a campaign payoff. Police should return to walking in the neighborhoods. The streets of Detroit are filthy and that's where your neighborhood city halls could play a role.
- Please open up the Lipke Recreation Center near Seven Mile and VanDyke. People are waiting for it to open.
- I'm displeased with the way the City of Detroit takes care of the trees (e.g., low limbs and dead trees) and the non-cleaning of City sewers. In my area, it has taken six years to partially remove a dead tree. The sewers have not been cleaned in 25 years. One sewer drain currently backs up every time it rains and then my neighbor has problems getting in her driveway.
- I love living in Detroit, it's far less expensive than in the suburbs. I do have some issues that I would like resolved, such as, repairing curbs and streets and the trimming of trees.
- We need better bus service on Sunday and more equipment for parks.
- I wish the City of Detroit would work to trim the branches of the trees that block the streetlights. Please stop blocking side streets when plowing snow from main streets. I wish the City would provide a service to help homeowners remove junk cars without having to pay for a tow truck.
- Alleys in the area have tall trees and weeds. The City needs to remove the trees and then turn the alleys over to homeowners. Residential traffic is too fast and music from cars is too loud. We need laws about cell phones. Why talk and drive?
- As a retired Detroit police officer with over 32 years of service, my views are slanted from a law enforcement outlook. I rode the DOT buses in the past, both in uniform and in plain clothes. Once, I was assaulted and other times I had to endure insults from the passengers. So, I make it a point to stay off the bus. I do not attend any City functions or recreational programs because I learned long ago that I wasn't wanted, when my four children were assaulted and driven from the building, and had to walk home after their bikes were stolen.
- The parks and bus service need improvement. After storms, the power outage experience of the City is bad.
- We need to enlarge the Kenney Center, please help us. Thank you.
- In addition to being a rundown and unclean building, the Kenney Center is dismal looking inside. There are no activities to attract the senior citizens of our community, only lunch and card playing.
- Please repair streets in the local neighborhoods. Renovate all City parks. Provide ways for investors to purchase abandoned houses and buildings without the politics. Provide homeowners grants to repair the homes they reside in. Provide tax breaks for new small business owners. Provide stiff fines for people who want to litter for no good reason etc.

- I'm not pleased with City lighting, City parks and recreation, or bus service. I don't like the condition of the downtown area, especially Woodward. It looks like a rundown slum. I don't like downtown parking, either. Detroit has a tremendous amount of improvement to make.
- Our residential streets need repair. All corner curbs should be wheelchair accessible. All streets should have curbs. There should be police walking the beat or mounted police. The more visible police are, the less likelihood of crime or fear by residents. This will enable residents to enjoy the City's recreation facilities.
- I remember true street cleaning, after school in-house activities, alley pickup of garbage when alleys were cleaned, activities at neighborhood playgrounds supervised by the Recreation Department, and seeing police officers walking and driving on my block and near my block. Taxes haven't gone down but the above-mentioned services have either stopped or slowed down. I think there are programs and grants available to City residents that they don't know about. With neighborhood City halls, mini stations, and the Ombudsman's Office you'd think folks would be more aware of these things. However, everyone does not have cable. Check out the vacant house at 1665 Buena Vista with the falling garage and litter in the rear of 1651/1653 Buena Vista. Both of these conditions have existed for over two years. The DPW is in a sad state.
- Toilets on Belle Isle should be cleaned more often. At the end of a weekend afternoon they are despicable. What happens to the casino money? I would ride the buses if they ran more often. I called the Fire Department to get a fire engine at a children's picnic six weeks in advance, but it never came and no one called to say why.
- I think that the neighborhood I live in is in a very depressed state. With the abandoned and burned out houses, and the debris left on lots, it's very hard for the average person to have respect for the area in which they live. I live on a dead-end street and there are never any passing police that patrol by my home. Streetlights are rarely lit. I keep my yard and home nice but it is sad to see all of the debris I have to pass by before getting to my home. Detroit needs politicians that care. Last year, after that severe snowstorm, my street was never scraped. A neighbor scraped our street or we wouldn't have been able to get out. The Elizabeth Howell Park near my home has its grass cut three times a year and that's it. The children have no swings and poorly kept slides.
- I would like to see Detroit's parks, streets, and business areas cleaned up. The street exits coming from the highways are always dirty. It would be nice to give thriving business areas (e.g., Livernois between Six Mile and Eight Mile) street appeal, such as painting curbs and streetlight poles. Also, put more trash cans out and enforce businesses to keep their storefronts neat and clean and provide nicer landscaping.
- Here are comments regarding City operations: Lights are off for weeks at night. Cut the grass but don't chop it. Trash is never picked up on the assigned trash day, instead it's picked up on weekends and not Thursday, as scheduled.

- Our block signed a petition in 1997 or 1999, because we wanted or need our trees trimmed very badly. These trees were planted in 1978 and 1979. We have widows and senior citizens on our block and they want this badly. Why should they have to keep calling to ask to have their trees trimmed? That is why they signed the petition. We feel that our street is not treated right. The City needs to keep the restrooms at Belle Isle clean, at all times, and also open some concession stands. Tear down vacant buildings on Wyoming between Curtis and Seven Mile. Also, you can't see the streetlights too well because the trees are hanging too low. The City needs to be more concerned about the tree trimming.
- Hopefully, help and correction will be forthcoming, especially for lighting of the streets, cleanliness of the parks (Belle Isle), and snow removal of local residential streets, particularly where the elderly reside.
- We like where we live. Other areas are severely suffering and are not well maintained. I love Detroit. I would like to see all of the City better maintained and restored. Alleys need to be maintained. They are overgrown with weeds, and cluttered by broken tree limbs and inconsiderate citizens who dump their unwanted trash. If the City can maintain the streets, why can't it maintain the alleys to reduced trash, rats, and weeds? Alleys should be converted to easements without citizens having to petition. Trees damaged by disease or destroyed by storms on City property need to be replaced. The abandoned and boarded-up houses in the Brightmoor area need to be removed. Bulk day pickup is supposed to be the fourth Friday of the month but it is not picked up until the second week of the next month. Parks are not mowed frequently enough and after the weekend there is too much trash left in the park. Noise law needs to be enforced. Dead animals (i.e., dogs and cats) hit by cars used to be removed from the streets within 24 hours, now each carcass lays in the street and decays or is pulverized by the many cars driving over it. The swing set and slides in the park need a load of dirt or wood chips to replace the soil that has been worn away. The empty buildings on Fenkell need to be eliminated, just to name a few: the old bank that used to serve as a police mini station, the ice cream store, the vacant building beside the pizza place, and the vacant post office building.
- There is a dead tree in front of my house that's been that way for three years. I called in April and it is still there. If a big storm knocks it down, it will fall on the residence across the street or even mine.
- I used to go to the Cannon Recreation Center, but it was so filthy and dangerous that it didn't feel safe taking my kids there. There has been a traffic light on Jefferson that's been misaligned for more than a year. The Water and Sewage crew who came to our home to fix a problem were fabulous, real pros. However, we had to use personal contact with a City official to get them here. We would love to be able to do substantial recycling, but there is no safe place to do it. The City tax department is a nightmare; they will not return any calls, problems are never resolved, and we finally paid an improper \$250 fine because we gave up dealing with this impossible, utterly incompetent bureaucracy. I am a seventh generation Detroiter, but sometimes I am so discouraged I could give up.
- Detroit can be a wonderful City. It needs leadership. Clean up Belle Isle. Taxpayers are scared to go there because of the rudeness, loud music, and general bad behavior. Prune the trees and let the light shine. Get rid of the bad cops, they make the good cops look bad. Give Detroit back to the working people, families, and law-abiding citizens. Thank you.
- The sewers need cleaning, garbage needs picking up, and trees need cutting.

- I am unhappy about the streets in my neighborhood. The side streets near Winchester and Dequindre are very bad and our cars are taking a beating. I marked bad for bulk pickup because people should be ticketed when they put trash out right after or the day after bulk pickup. Also, for two years my sister has been trying to get the roots removed from the trees that pushed up the sidewalk. She is 80-years old and has fallen twice. The City came out and put black tar on the sidewalk, as a repair. In no other neighborhood would they put tar (that you put on the street) on the sidewalk.
- I guess I find it rather disturbing that the City of Detroit is the only City that requires neighborhood citizens to volunteer to clean up vacant lots, debris, and participate in crime prevention methods. None of the surrounding suburban areas have this problem. And yet, in most instances, we (the citizens) pay more taxes, etc. Downtown is a mess (it's rather embarrassing) and the conditions at Belle Isle have gotten ridiculous. There's always plenty of trash everywhere and the potholes in the streets result in an irritating drive.
- I've questioned some of the survey's questions because I either haven't heard of this, or I don't know of one in my area. I do not believe there are any parks within walking distance of my neighborhood. I believe this is a sad case due to the number of kids that have no where to play but on the streets.
- The community recreation centers have been neglected. They are not clean and limited in activities. The beautiful CAY Recreation Center is in a very diverse community. There is no program there. The marquee is never posted with activities for a diverse community. I would love to see a variety of activities in the community centers. Thanks.
- I believe more emphasis should be placed on education, safety, neighbors, and parks and recreation.
- The Chicago Street bus line is very slow seven days a week. Lighting on Chicago from Wyoming to Meyers isn't working. The Meyers Road streetlights stay off more than on. The Farm-a-Lot program never returns calls to answer questions about garden soil, seeds, and plants. When will the work, which has been going on for the last two years, be done at the Northwest Activity Center?
- If you live in the City of Detroit you're not treated as a citizen. Only if you live in the suburbs, do you get quick police protection, fire protection, snow removal on side streets, neighborhood parks, recreation centers that are clean, and so much more. Also, car insurance costs less. What happened to the City of Detroit Schools? It's sad.
- There is no excuse for the poor response of the department of recreation and the department of sanitation. These departments have employees and equipment that appear to be idle each time I encounter them.
- There was a time when I went swimming in my neighborhood in a swim mobile at Gallagher Park on the eastside. There was a time when neighborhood parks had recreational leaders. There was a time when summer jobs for the youth were in abundance. I remember when I would ride on the freeways and see beautiful cut green grass (now only when I'm on the freeways on the City's outskirts). I'm a young black man now, and I'm still harassed by the local law. There are changes being made but not for the better. Will this survey or my comments really help?

- I wish there was a park close to my home. The apathy and malaise I encounter in most City departments is appalling. Pride in one's job and one's City is what I should be encountering.
- I have always used the Patton Park Recreation Center for swimming. However, the lockers have never been replaced and nothing has been done to upgrade the facility, like others in the City of Detroit. My daughter even cut her arm on a locker, and the office didn't even have antiseptic for her cuts, which were deep. Patton Park has not been upgraded, either inside or outside.
- Detroit could use a "Touring Company" here. Detroit has plenty you just haven't used it right. Use Belle Isle as an amusement park and a real park as in the olden days, with hotdogs, popcorn, concession games, and horses, etc. Have good music there and provide fun for all. Bring the stars to Detroit. Let's get Detroit rolling. Invent some human interests for Detroit. Do something with the school lottery money.
- I feel that we need more police in the neighborhoods, better maintenance of the parks, and more safe places for residents to work and exercise. I'm always in before dark, due to fear of being robbed or attacked.
- The City needs to restore streets, improve street drainage, trim trees, provide more streetlights, and update fire hydrants. Sidewalks are broken because of tree roots. Also, some trees are pushing the electric wire because they are too tall. Police, Fire, and EMS services are fine.
- I think the City is doing a very good job. The City is cleaner and the parks look good and very clean. Belle Isle was really beautiful the last time I visited. The City and it's workers have done a good job. I just love you, keep up the good work City of Detroit.
- I called the Forestry Division of the Recreation Department over three years ago to trim the street tree. They came ten months ago to write a pruning order. I hope it doesn't take them much longer than that to come out and actually trim the tree.
- A tree fell in May 2001, and we have been trying to get the stump removed and the sidewalk replaced. It is a tree owned by the City, but I'm told they don't have a truck strong enough to remove it. I've called everyone, including the City's Ombudsman Office. Please help me.
- The City of Detroit needs improvement, such as business owners who should keep up their property inside and out. They should be fined for trash being left around their businesses, having unclean and nasty looking businesses, or not cutting their grass, etc. The City should also fine schools and homeowners who do not take care of their properties. The City should also take care of the trees that line the streets, and demolish vacant and old buildings. Also, Belle Isle needs to be beautiful again. The City should help the homeless and have more food and medical supplies for their needs. Give aid to those who need help. Have recreation programs and classes for Detroit kids and young adults.
- I am 73 years old and I have been waiting fifteen years to have the trees trimmed. We have to call outsiders to do this work. Shame on you.

- The City doesn't have enough police patrolmen on duty, and as soon as any area is cleaned up, the young people throw trash right back on the street again. I don't know about the buses. I don't use them, but I see them all the time. The City is filthy and dirty, the chuckholes where I live are terrible being five to ten inches deep. I went to Belle Isle four years ago and it took me four hours to get off the island.
- Many programs mentioned on the survey were unheard of. The city is filthy. Cleaning the streets needs to be implemented. Community policing depends on where you live as some communities get better service.
- It seems to me the City is only concerned with downtown and not the neighborhoods in which our children must grow up in. It's sad that it takes the City weeks to cut grass at City parks. The parks no longer have equipment for children to play on. They should not even be called parks. They should be called grassy areas.
- I have no comments, except City service are bad, especially the Forestry Division of the Recreation Department. Trees have been planted with no maintenance as far as trimming, etc.
- The Belle Isle restrooms are filthy and poorly maintained. The shelters had bird droppings everywhere in the late spring. This was a beautiful park and should be a show place for our city. It would help to have maintenance seven days a week with trash pick up twice a day on weekends. The restroom facilities should be replaced and more restrooms are needed.
- The street lighting is very bad in the City. We must go outside the City to get the best pricing on food, clothing, home improvement stores, or department stores. Parks have become loitering camps for the homeless.
- I have been calling the Forestry Division of the Recreation Department to get a limb cut off the roof of my house for about four years, and they have not got around to doing it yet.
- The City never trimmed our trees that they planted. Also, City workers have done a poor job fixing our streets and sidewalks, due to the trees that the City planted. We have reported the fact that the sidewalk in front of our house has been in need of repair for eight years, and it hasn't been corrected. It took about eight years to get the City to fix the apron of the driveway where the water drain is. The flooding caused the street and apron of our driveway to sink. When they did attempt to fix it they put old blacktop down and it got all over our shoes, and it wasn't rolled out. Now that they are done with their work, our street is cracked and broken and has caved in since last winter. We are located between Marin and Pembroke.
- I would like to see the burned out and empty buildings torn down because they are dangerous and an eyesore. Also, the tree on our street has not been trimmed in the last two years and you can't see very well up or down the street.
- I'm old, so I don't go to Belle Isle or use any of the programs or classes mentioned in the survey.

- I don't go to the parks very often. Some of the streets in my neighborhood are very bad. I have not been on a bus in thirty years. We do not have a recreation center in our neighborhood, so the children play in the streets, which is very dangerous. People in cars will park in front of our home, play their loud music, drink beer and then leave their cans on the ground. The police should patrol our street more often.
- Belle Isle is very safe during the day, but is very unsafe at night. I would like to ride the buses but the schedules are insufficient and not followed, plus I feel unsafe on city buses. Keeping the streets in the downtown and the Casino areas clean is not enough. The rest of the City is trashed and is horrible. Regarding drug usage in the City, just saying "No" is not enough, and it doesn't work. We need better after school activities, better day care, more stimulating education and most of all better legitimate work and career opportunities for our youth.
- The people who work for the City of Detroit are very rude and unhelpful. The City of Detroit has too many drugs and gangs. We need more housing and more home improvement loans. The Recreation Department has informed me that the City of Detroit has promised money for home improvement, but it hasn't received any money for low-income citizens and seniors. I have observed city workers slack all day, but then they get overtime to work additional hours. Also, vacant lots don't get cleaned and/or cut but once a year.
- I answered to the best of my ability, as I suffer from a stroke that occurred in November 1997. I haven't received any notices of any special events on outreach programs. I was very active in the community before the stroke.
- Detroit is growing into a woods that looks like an overgrown forest. Twenty-five years ago, the city was in immaculate condition. But now, since we black folks are in office every thing has gone to hell! The politicians only care about using the poor blacks to elect them in office, but once in they don't think about us until reelection. What about us? We pay the most taxes, but we receive the least in governmental services. We need serious change!
- Charge an entrance fee to Belle Isle.
- I am in law enforcement, therefore, I am on the streets and in the neighborhoods almost everyday. I am a new homeowner in the city. I have noticed that the streets are not maintained. If the local recreational center does offer services, I have no idea what they are or where the local centers are located. I am tired of doing home calls in neighborhoods that have vacant houses. Belle Isle could be a wonderful place to attend activities if the City charged a fee and added more recreational services. I am the wrong person to survey because I am unhappy about a lot of other services in Detroit and will be selling my home in two years. I will be moving to the suburbs.
- Detroit needs to be a part of a Regional Transit Authority which would operate a multi-model metro public transit system to include rapid transit, improved feeder buses and community transit vehicles. We need better drug enforcement in our neighborhoods. Most city buses in our area pollute the air, a result of poor maintenance. Also, more personnel are needed for maintenance of city parks, trimming trees, etc. Thank you for what you are doing, but let's put more dollars into City services.

- All city programs or services to assist our senior citizens or our children should be available to all. I cannot believe that a senior citizen would be denied anything for having too large an income, but it happens to people on fixed incomes time and time again.
- I live in a senior citizen building near Wayne State University, and it is fairly safe here. However, we have a lot of car thefts from our parking lot. Bus service is slow all over the city and is very poor on the weekends. Metro-lift is hard to reach by phone. I grew up in Detroit when the downtown area was beautiful and Belle Isle was breathtaking. It was for families and friends to meet. It makes me sad that Detroit is no longer the safe and beautiful city I grew up in. Now, at age sixty-nine, I can't volunteer, but I do remember the good old days. I love to talk about Detroit. Thank You.
- I called two to three months ago to have the tree in front of my home trimmed because it is towering over my home. I haven't received a response and no one has come to look at the tree. I am also interested in finding out about grants for first time homebuyers that will enable me to fix up my home as well as beautify the neighborhood.
- As for cleaning up city parks and streets, take the young people off the street and put them to work.
- We are senior citizens and fortunate to have personal transportation, so we could not comment on public transportation. The weekly garbage collection is consistent. Bulk collection on the other hand is not, as you never know when they will pick it up. Also, residents put their bulk rubbish out days ahead and there are no consequences. There isn't a neighborhood park. The recreation center may have planned programs, but they are not publicized. The potential drug problem in my neighborhood does not seem to be addressed. Neighborhood city hall doesn't take care of problems in the neighborhood. We are senior citizens and are not in the best of health, so we are not able to volunteer.
- There are neither parks nor recreation centers in my area. I have to travel a long distance to other neighborhoods. That is why a lot of boxes of the survey are not marked.
- I had a hard time getting in touch with someone from the City to cut down some wild trees near my property.
- Please do better work with the parks in the east side of Detroit and save the babies.
- Belle Isle needs a walk or bike path, one separate from the roadway. Eliminate parking on the Strand and keep cars moving on that part of the island. Recreation centers should be open on Saturdays and Sundays with community rooms for rent. Also, a walk or bike path from Belle Isle to the downtown area would be nice. City workers need reduced prices for parking, such as showing your identification and being able to park at all downtown lots for \$3.00.
- I would like to see more attention given to tree cutting and trimming. Also, more attention should be given to neighborhoods and abandoned automobiles in our streets and on private property. Also, stop street trash dumping, and enforce private property clean up. Enforce property maintenance on both commercial and residential property.

- We need to improve policing in the City of Detroit. We need to get youth off the streets with after school programs, and getting churches involved more in the community. Police should have more gun buy-backs. All of I-94 needs to be redone for safety measures. The schools need better educated teachers. Bums should be put in jail and taken off the streets. They should get an education, too. All music should be rated that's sold in our city as if it is bad it destroys.
- The restrooms at Belle Isle need to be cleaned during the day. Pigs should not have to live like that. It was awful. There should be a charge for each car entering the island and use the proceeds to clean the island and the restrooms.
- Cut down some of the trees and bushes around vacant lots as individuals hide in them at night, and you can't see them. Individuals buy old houses at a reasonable rate, but take a long time to fix them, give them only a certain amount of time to do the necessary repairs. This will help build up the neighborhoods.
- When garbage is collected weekly, workers drop some of the garbage, and then keep on moving down the street. I would like them to pick up after themselves. I love Belle Isle, It's the most beautiful recreation park in the world.
- More mentors are needed for young blacks. More programs to help them obtain goals, such as camps.
- I live in the Capitol and Schaefer Streets area and our streetlights have been off for two and a half months. Before they went dark, they came on later than 8:30 p.m. I also think the bathrooms at all Recreation Department facilities need to be cleaned up. They are filthy, and it is a shame.
- Manor Street needs additional streetlights from James Couzens to west McNichols. The lighting is poor on Manor Street. Please note that the street is unsafe.
- Some areas of Belle Isle are clean, however, the Children's Zoo on October 2, 2001 was filthy. There are three houses on my street that are a danger to children.
- It seems as though the City's main concern about events, public safety (police patrol, etc.) and funding are geared towards the suburbanites that come to Detroit. They only come to downtown Detroit, treat it like a trash can and are protected by the Detroit Police Department while visiting. The Detroit Electronic Music Festival is a step in the right direction.
- City hall services are a joke. The property tax department is very unorganized. The City has many employees who are rude. The Recreation Department employees have to be threatened to cut the grass, and the Office of the Ombudsman does not respond to our complaints.
- The facilities such as the restrooms on Belle Isle need improvement desperately. In the summer, the gatherings of motorcycle clubs with their drinking in the park and their fast driving makes it very uncomfortable. Our neighborhood streets and sidewalks are in very bad condition. Also, the City lots and properties are very bad.

- The major problem with the monthly bulk pick up is that the operator often leaves a lot of rubbish on the berm or the curb. More attention must be shown in the actual picking up of whatever items are placed for collection. The quality of life in our city could be improved greatly if appropriate city officials demonstrated good leadership in providing services to our citizens. Programs needed for our city include affordable housing, good recreation programs, meaningful demolition schedules, youth improvement programs, adult education programs and skilled trades training.
- The following are my thoughts in improving the City. As for police protection, demolish all corner liquor stores and replace them with free parking lots, demolish all vacant buildings and houses and replace them with neighborhood parks, tennis courts, basketball courts, football fields, benches, bleachers, canopies, and lakes. We need emergency phones in the parks and in the neighborhoods, and we need more recreation centers with activities such as bowling, skating and/or movies.
- We don't go anywhere alone at any time of the day, and we always use the buddy system. We hear gunshots frequently during the night. We don't use public transportation or the recreation centers or parks anymore. Belle Isle was once our favorite park, but we only drive through it occasionally now. We have maintained the city lot next door for over twenty years, and it is used by disrespectful boys as a football field. They won't use the nearby playgrounds, so we have replaced things as broken windows, a busted fence, etc. We must keep our windows closed because of the loud and foul language. We first learned about the 311 phone system when we called 911 to report a stolen vehicle left in the alley. Trimming of trees was approved on June 18, 2001 and the work was to be done in six to eight weeks, and now it is five months later and nothing has happened. Mayor Archer promised tough law enforcement against neighborhood drug dealers, but it has not happened. We miss shopping in the downtown area.
- It's good that Detroit has facilities such as Belle Isle and other city parks available to us, but the cleanliness of these parks concerns me. Not just the trash, but the over population of ducks/geese and their droppings. Detroit is not the greatest city to live in, but there are plenty cities worst than Detroit, within and outside the United States.
- I have reported trees that are hindering drivers' views, and still the trees are not trimmed. I have seen other trees that need trimming and I have reported them. I will try to stay on top of it.
- Why are there so many vacant/abandoned buildings and lots with overgrown weeds?
- Why are people allowed to sell drugs daily on Downing Street, between Electric and Liddesdale Streets?
- Why are prostitutes visible daily on Fort Street, between Outer Drive and Downing Street?
- Why can't Kemeny Center have the same facilities as Coleman Young Recreation Center?
- It is my sincere prayer that the next Mayor will be able to resurrect the city as a whole because Detroit is dying.
- I could write at least two pages on the difficulty of raising an eleven year-old old son in the City.